



THE BAAC PAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO

JULY GENERAL MEETING
BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

Editors: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano

Summer - Vacation time - Small turnout for July meeting? - **NOT!!** The place was packed to capacity, 109 present. Regulars **Jean-Pierre Pagola, Tony Addiego, Jim Firpo, Al Enos, Clyde Forsman** and **Josephine Hornbrook**, just to mention a few, witnessed an extraordinary evening of pure accordion playing...

Our new conductor, **Peter Di Bono**, opened the meeting by thanking **Lou Soper** for his contribution as first president of our club. Then, **Peter** began reminiscing about the last two years and how the club began at City Hall with the commitment to raise the public perception of the accordion (The audience was moved by "a dream come true" story). **Peter** concluded by praising the contribution made by the First Annual Accordion Festival in Cotati.

The musical evening began with **Leo Troi**, a new performer to the club, doing a fine rendition of *Green Fields, Stompin' at the Savoy* and *If You Knew Susie*. **Algis Radnikas** followed with *Buddy, Can You spare A Dime*. His performance was so convincing that our music director, **Domenic Saso**, was moved to reach deep into his pocket, coming up with a dime as **Elgis** went off stage (Don't worry **Domenic**, it's tax deductible)...

Next, **Art Peterson** from Those Darned Accordions!, did a wonderful medley of 'South of the Border' polka music. **Art** also announced that Those Darn Accordions! will be performing in Lithuania and Vienna this coming Fall.... **Jim Firpo, Lee Woodall & Tony Di Bono** on accordion with **Rick Elmore** on tuba finished the first half with a delightful medley of tunes that inspired **Reno Pucci, Dominic Palmisano** and **Clyde Forsman** to join in with their finale *The Beer Barrel*

Polka...

After the break **Peter Di Bono** discussed the need to support the Cotati Festival in order to demonstrate our commitment to promoting the accordion. The discussion was lively and cautious, simultaneously. The membership voted to increase the support from \$250.00 allocated by the Board, to \$1500.00 from the membership...The **John Molinari Tribute Concert** was announced, the date for the occasion will be September 27, 1992...Also, the July 26th **San Mateo Italian Fiesta**, a Benefit for **Special Olympics**, will be a BAAC participation event. **ACCORDIONIST NEEDED!** (call **Walter Traverso**)...**Ed Zaro** reported on the greeting of **Anthony Galla Rini** at San Francisco International Airport. **Ed** read a letter from **Anthony** thanking the **Welcoming Committee** for the warm and gracious greeting. (A special thanks to **Denise** and **Elna Stoscher** for the superb house reception for our beloved guest.) ...It was announced that the first graduation of the **Wisconsin Accordion Repair School** had taken place, Just another indication of the renaissance for the accordion!..Finally, a dignitary was

introduced, sitting in the audience was **Mr. Ron Flynn**, the author of *The Golden Age of the Accordion*...

More Sounds... **Reno Pucci**, playing a very old accordion owned by **Ray Lagomarsino**, belted out (in his usual grand style) *Remember You March* and *Italian Street Song*...Playing by the rules (two songs only), **Cindy Tuculet** and **Dominic Palmisano** demonstrated the chemistry of a duet by serenading the audience with French songs, *Pigalle* and *Domino*...**Tom Cardoni** followed with a medley of haunting tunes of the past, including *A Man and a Woman* and **Perez Prado's Mambo Jambo**...**Frank Panacci** and **Edward Massolo** held us captive with *Let's Dance the Polka*, *Pietro's Return March*, *Carnival of Venice* and *Motorcycle Polka*. This dynamic duo was given a resounding ovation for their performance...

Don Nurriso was given the task of closing the evening. His romantic style instantly changed the mood of the room. The audience exited with sweet sounds from a medley of **Don's** favorites which included *Falling in Love* and *Lover*...

Barb Hartley 

BAAC BOARD MEETING JUNE 24, 1992

Synopsis of Minutes

- * The Board agreed that the San Francisco Squeeze will be payed \$150.00 for performing at the Club's picnic.
- * The Board agreed to give \$250.00 to Cotati Festival. A motion was made to pay the Cotati Festival \$50.00 per day for a booth; passed.
- * The Board agreed that a booth would be constructed for \$200.00 .
- * The Board continued to discuss the production of a new t-shirt.
- * The Board continued to discuss the John Molinari Memorial Concert on September 27, 1992
- * Finances: Savings - \$1,181.37; Checking - \$4,369.54
- * Picnic: Income - \$2,809.00; Expenses - \$900.00; Profit - \$909.00

CONDUCTOR'S COLUMN

"TO KNOW THE FUTURE, EXAMINE THE PAST"

If the Monday night meeting (the first of the new year) was an indication, this promises to be a banner year for the San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Club. Thanks to everyone who attended, especially nice to see Ron Flynn (The Golden Age Of The Accordion) - if you haven't got his book yet, you ought to!

How about the marvelous musicians who entertained us so enthusiastically/ Is it just my impression, or did you notice the dramatic upturn in the level of play exhibited these members? This dramatic change is apparent at every level of proficiency, from amateur to professional. Hearing others perform encourages us to

continue our study, and provides a valuable insight into our own performance. Talking with other accordionists is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, or work through difficulties we may experience with our own playing...

ON another note, coffee and dessert will be available at the August meeting. Carol Benetti has graciously agreed to provide the dessert, and the House of Parties will provide coffee. If you think this is a good addition to our meetings, please let me know. Will one of our members PLEASE CALL (753-1502) to volunteer to be Chair of a Refreshment Committee for the coming year? This is a chance to get involved with the club. Carol's generosity is heartwarming, but it is time for other members to step forward.

We are looking for ways to improve our Club, and I am eagerly available to suggestions from the members in this regard. **PLEASE CALL (753-1502)!!!**

The stated purpose of our Club, "...to promote the accordion..." is not taken lightly by the membership. after lively (and lengthy[too lengthy?]) debate of the pro and con of giving financial assistance to the Cotati Accordion Festival, an overwhelming majority (90%?) voted to donate \$1,500.00 to this event. The Festival is scheduled for August 29 and 30, and if you missed it last year, DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THIS YEAR. Many of our members will perform, and in addition, some of the greatest players of our instrument, Art Van Damme the most notable, are also scheduled. the June Newsletter put forth a tentative listing of performers at Cotati, and it was noted that our own Lou Casalnuovo was omitted. Don't fret, Lou and his quartet, that "swung" the March meeting, are featured on Saturday. DON'T MISS'EM.

As a final thought, play your accordion every day, play publicly whenever possible, and keep spreading the word of our favorite instrument.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD.

Peter Di Bono



Dear Members:

It's dues time again.

Send \$20.00 to Rusty Bartoli

222 Prague St. San Francisco 94112

"A passage of velocity is not really perfected if it cannot be played slow as well as up to tempo".

Anthony Galla-Rini

BAAC Income Statement

	Six months Ending 6/30/92	Twelve Months Ending 6/30/92	Eighteen Months Ending 6/30/92
INCOME			
Membership	\$480.00	\$2,835.00	\$4,655.00
Door Fee	\$511.00	\$906.00	\$1,290.00
BAAC Ads	\$205.00	\$275.00	\$275.00
T-Shirts	\$30.00	\$191.00	\$1,234.00
Picnic	\$2,809.00	\$2,809.00	\$4,447.00
Bar Sales	\$0.00	\$495.00	\$902.00
Cotati Festival	\$0.00	\$912.00	\$912.00
A Van D Concert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,710.29
Donations	\$0.00	\$77.00	\$357.00
Festa Italian	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Intrest Earned	\$39.58	\$118.00	\$166.12
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Income	\$4,074.58	\$9232.39	\$18,110.80
EXPENSES			
Newsletter	\$1,107.72	\$2,138.37	\$3,753.97
House Parties	\$287.50	\$450.00	\$612.50
Bar Sales	\$0.00	\$50.44	\$307.21
Picnic	\$1,812.63	\$1,812.63	\$2,896.26
T-Shirts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$828.39
Cotati Festival	\$0.00	\$318.33	\$903.00
Art Van Dam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,807.00
Library	\$140.70	\$161.48	\$161.48
President	\$128.66	\$437.30	\$1,125.14
Buttons	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$310.00
Other Office	\$44.28	\$318.33	\$365.07
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66.50
Photos	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$174.19
Guest Performance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Advertisement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Misc	\$124.32	\$229.79	\$326.09
Deposit	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Totals	\$3,770.81	\$6,626.34	\$14,006.80

INTRODUCING JERRY KRAMER

Another Bay Area virtuoso has taken his instrument out of the closet. after a 17 year hiatus, Jerry Kramer, former Broadway accordionist, and conductor, is the newest member of the San Francisco Accordion Orchestra. Jerry has had a varied and interesting career, and one filled with opportunity and good fortune. While substituting for another accordionist in the original Broadway version of Fiddler On The Roof, Jerry was invited by the star of the show, Herschel Bernardi, to be his accompanist at the Inaugural Ball for New York Mayor, John Lindsay. This was the beginning of an association which would last eleven years. As Bernardi's personal conductor and accompanist, Jerry traveled far and wide, including conducting appearances on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, The Merv Griffin Show, The Mike Douglas Show, and The Jackie Gleason Show. In addition to "Fiddler", Jerry was also the accordionist in the original Broadway production of Cabaret.

Musical studies began at age 7 at the Wurlitzer School in Manhattan under the guidance of Edward Salonas. Jerry's first

instrument, a Wurlitzer, was provided by the school. at age 12, Jerry was accepted as a student of the celebrated accordion virtuoso and teacher, Joe Biviano. Studies under Maestro Biviano stressed a classical repertoire, hours of technical and dexterity exercise daily, and the transcribing of piano and other music literature for performance on the accordion. The La Tosca Eldorado was the accordion Jerry used during this period. It is also noteworthy to mention that Jerry attended High School of the Performing Arts. The is the same school which was the idea behind the popular television series, "Fame".

The extensive musical background acquired from with Mr. Biviano enabled Jerry to enter Queens College of the City University of New York where he obtained his first degree, Bachelor of Arts in Music. Jerry was the first candidate to have been accepted at this institution and permitted to undertake a major course of study with accordion as his instrument. Upon completion of undergraduate work, Jerry continued formal education and was confirmed as Master of Science in Music Education several years later.

Having accomplished his musical goals, Jerry's career took a wide detour. Fulfilling a lifelong dream, Jerry was accepted into the Oakland Police department in 1972.

His career as a police officer was as successful as his career as a musician. advancing quickly through his various assignments and garnering many citations for excellence, Jerry attained the rank of Sergeant, and was a respected investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division. After 20 years of service to the City of Oakland, Jerry is seriously contemplating an early retirement.

Jerry's good fortune carried into his personal life as well. His lovely wife of 17 years, Joan, is a registered nurse with a Masters degree from San Jose State. Joan is also an avid runner. They have a daughter, Linda, who is as aspiring flutist. It was daughter Linda's suggestion, and wife Joan's encouragement. that got Jerry to return to the accordion.

Jerry's accordion, a Bell, has undergone a recent cleaning and tuning in preparation for his performance at the August meeting of the San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Club. Jerry is considering a new career as a teacher for those interested in pursuing the serious study of accordion. Jerry is a prime example of the accordion renaissance sweeping the Bay Area.

ADAM WHITE



Accordion World's Galla-Rini Accordion Camp Silver Falls Oregon

Five days of blue skies, mountains, pine trees, fresh air, friends, and Maestro Galla-Rini teaching and playing the accordion "a little bit of Heaven". *Accordion World* is to be commended for sponsoring this outstanding event. Attending the camp can only be described as an experience to be cherished for a lifetime. At the camp, everyone feels a spirit of brotherhood, a bond of friendship is immediately developed.

The camp consisted of three full days of Master classes taught by Mister Accordion, Anthony Galla-Rini. Subjects and activities included; the musical range of the accordion,

proper use of accordion registers, transcribing for the accordion, a good dose of ensemble work, and the opportunity for private one on one lessons with the Maestro.

Other activities included, a seminar presented each afternoon by Paul Pasquali, of Colombo & Sons accordion Corp., explaining and answering questions about MIDI and its application to the accordion. Not to be forgotten, a wonderful concert which included an ensemble of all accoeionists (conducted by the Maestro), and followed with an unforgettable solo performance by Anthony Galla-Rini.

The Accordion Camp is held each year at the beautiful Silver Falls Conference Lodge, about 25 miles east of Salem. The modest fee includes room accommodations, all meals, and

attendance to all classes and seminars (private lessons optional). Those who are interested in attending next year's camp should look for more information in the outstanding *Accordion World magazine*. If you are not a subscriber, then contact Ellen Bonica At Accordion World 465 N. E. 181st #213, Portland, Oregon 97230 (subscriptions are available at a cost of \$21.00 per year).

Paul Pasquali



HARMONICA MAN

When Jim Prushankin had a heart attack ten years ago, his doctors told him to slow down and relax. "I remembered how much I had enjoyed the harmonica as a kid," he says. So Prushankin, a manufacturers' representative, became a born-again harmonica player.

Eager to share his joy, Prushankin started giving away harmonicas and tips on playing to soldiers, office workers and anyone else who might benefit from what

he calls "the magic of the harmonica." Then he began giving harmonicas, sheet music, books, tapes and his time to schools, church groups and nursing homes.

Not long ago, Janet Poehlmann, a teacher in Willow Dale Elementary School in suburban Philadelphia, read Prushankin's claim in a local paper that anyone could learn to play the harmonica. That sounded like just the ticket for Poehlmann's children, all second-graders who had fallen behind their classmates in reading and writing. She called the "Harmonica Man."

With only a few weeks on instruction the youngsters held a concert for their parents and brought down the house. "The concert gave the kids a lot of confidence," says Michael W. Webb, principal of Willow Dale. "They thought, 'Hey, if I can learn to play all these notes, maybe I can learn to read and spell.'"

Most of the children caught up with their grade levels by the end of the year. "In 22 years of teaching" Poehlmann says, "I've never seen anything affect the kids in such a positive way as the harmonica - and the Harmonica Man."

Michael deCourcy Hinds in New York Times



1039 Madrone Avenue, Cotati, CA 94931
(707) 664-1302

July 10, 1992

Dear Bay Area Accordion Club Members

Your very generous contribution to the Cotati Accordion Festival is a wonderful surprise. Having this much needed and appreciated support from your club will allow us to provide a large tent for accordionists both to jam and to perform with each other. Your generosity will also make it possible to rent bleachers so that more people can enjoy the show.

I believe that The Cotati Accordion Festival has had a very positive influence on many thousands of people. Hopefully our continued good fortune will inspire others to produce similar festivals in other communities creating more opportunities for accordion lovers to meet, play and learn together. But perhaps even more important this event keeps the accordion in the mainstream as there is the tendency by some to marginalize this wonderful musical instrument as a quirky relic and say that those who play it are worthy only of others pity or scorn. This festival highlights the many musical styles which feature the accordion, thereby showing everyone that the accordion is here to stay.

I am sure that your confidence in our efforts will inspire us to produce an event that you will remember with pride, especially knowing that your support has made it all possible. Thank you again.

Sincerely

Clifton Buck-Kauffman
Clifton Buck-Kauffman
For The CAF Committee

COMMENT: I can attest to the Harmonica Man story. Many many moons ago my sister began accordion lessons. About 6 months after she began, my mother was called by the school principal saying that my sister, Edna, had been doing differently during the past six months. My mother told him that the only thing different was that she was taking accordion lessons. He'd called my mom because he was shocked at the change in Edna's study perception and grades at school. Since then, I've read other articles stating this as a fact.

Barb Hartley

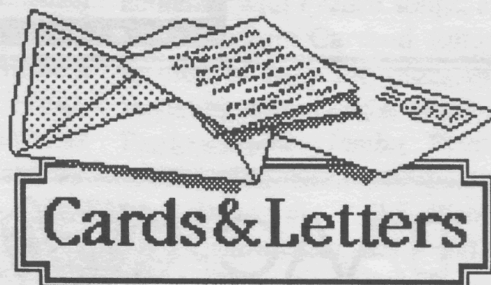
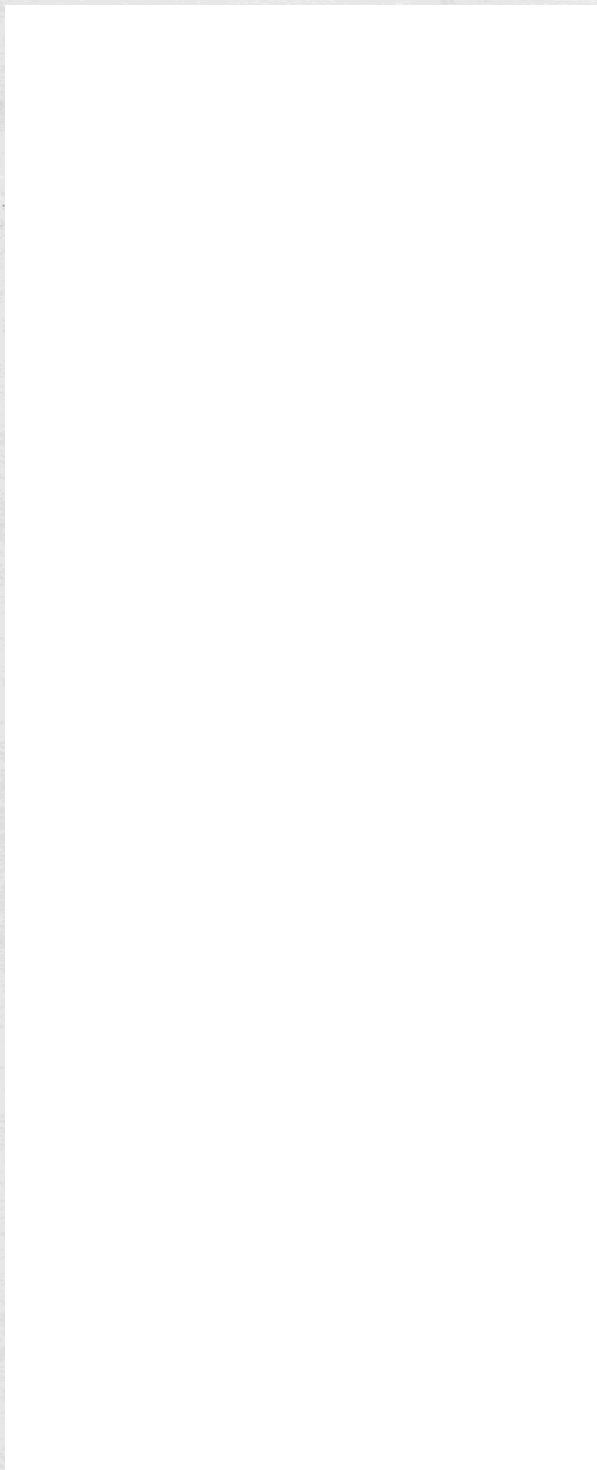


**The John Molinari
Memorial Concert**
on
September 27, 1992
at
**Milbrae Recreation
Community Center**
477 Lincoln Circle
Milbrae, California
Tickets : \$7.50
(Limit 200)

Call (415) 574-4757
to reserve tickets
or
Tickets available
at the next meeting



HUMOR!!



Dear Editor,

I have a problem I hope you can help with. I have two brothers. One brother is a musician who plays the accordion. The other was put to death in the electric chair for murder. My mother died as a result of her insanity when I was three years old. My two sisters are both prostitutes, and my father sells narcotics to high school kids. Recently, I met a girl who was just released from a reformatory where she served time for smothering her illegitimate child. I'm really in love with this girl and I want to marry her. My problem is this: If I marry this girl, how do I tell her about my brother the accordion player?

Signed: NO NAME

Dear NO NAME,

Good Luck!!

BAAC Classified



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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY

August 3, 1992

7:00PM

HOUSE OF PARTIES

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